



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HIROKI KISHI

Application No.: 09/842,155

Filed: April 26, 2001

**For: ENCODING APPARATUS
AND ENCODING METHOD**

Examiner: Timothy M. Johnson

Group Art Unit: 2625

July 13, 2004

**Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

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Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

A Notice of Allowance was mailed in the above-identified application on April 13, 2004. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed herewith. Prior to continued examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows. The claims changes are reflected in the listing that begins at page 2, and the Remarks begin at page 15.

07/16/2004 HALI11 00000032 09842155

.01 FC:1201	516.00 DP
02 FC:1202	144.00 DP

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

July 13, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

LEONARD P. DIANA (Reg. No. 29,296)

(Name of Attorney for Applicants)

Signature

July 13, 2004
Date of Signature

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